WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A toner comprising a binder resin, a colorant, and a charge control agent comprising a charge control substance supported by an inorganic porous material, and having been subjected to thermal fairing treatment.

2. The toner of Claim 1, wherein the thermal fairing treatment is at least one of treatment by collision or hot-air conglobation treatment.

3. The toner of Claim 1 or 2, having a ratio: G(t)=G(t=0.01s)/G(t=ht) of 10 or less, wherein G(t=0.01s) represents a relaxation modulus at a relaxation time t of 0.01s and G(t=ht) represents a relaxation modulus at a relaxation time t of ht that corresponds to a hot-air heating time (ht) during which toner particles are heated in a hot air in the hot-air treatment step, each determined by a dynamic viscoelasticity measurement of the toner particles.

4. The toner of any one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein the binder resin comprises a polymer having a urethane bond or a urea bond in its main chain and being obtained by polymerization of a compound having at least two

isocyanate groups and an active hydrogen compound having at least two active-hydrogen-containing functional groups.

5. A process for producing a toner, which comprises forming toner particles containing a binder resin, a colorant and a charge control agent supported by an inorganic porous material, and then subjecting the toner particles to thermal fairing treatment.

6. The production process of Claim 5, wherein the thermal fairing treatment is at least one of treatment by collision and hot-air conglobation treatment.

7. A toner obtained by a process comprising the steps of:

kneading a composition containing a binder resin, a colorant and a charge control agent comprising an ionic or neutral substance supported by an inorganic porous material;

pulverizing the kneaded product;

adding the pulverized product to a solvent immiscible with water;

dispersing the mixture in an aqueous medium; and removing the solvent by at least one of heating and pressure reduction.

8. A developing unit for use in an image forming apparatus which develops an electrostatic latent image formed on a photoreceptor, transfers the image onto a recording medium, and then fixes the transferred image, said developing unit comprising:

a developing roller which supplies a toner onto the photoreceptor to develop the electrostatic latent image, and

a bias voltage applying member which applies a bias voltage to said developing roller to recover a toner remaining on the photoreceptor after the transfer step,

wherein said toner is obtained by a process comprising the steps of:

kneading a composition containing a binder resin, a colorant and a charge control agent comprising an ionic or neutral substance supported by an inorganic porous material;

pulverizing the kneaded product;

adding the pulverized product to a solvent immiscible with water;

dispersing the mixture in an aqueous medium; and removing the solvent by at least one of heating and pressure reduction.

9. A process for producing a toner, which comprises the steps of:

kneading a composition containing a binder resin, a colorant and a charge control agent comprising an ionic or neutral substance supported by an inorganic porous material;

pulverizing the kneaded product;

adding the pulverized product to a solvent immiscible with water;

dispersing the mixture in an aqueous medium; and

removing the solvent by at least one of heating and pressure reduction.

10. A toner comprising associated particles formed from a composition comprising:

primary particles obtained from an emulsion of a binder resin;

a colorant; and

a charge control agent comprising a water soluble charge control substance incorporated in inorganic fine particles.

11. The toner of Claim 10, wherein said inorganic particles comprise an inorganic porous material.

12. A process for producing a toner, comprising the steps of:

mixing an emulsion of a binder resin with a colorant and a charge control agent comprising a water soluble charge control substance incorporated in inorganic fine particles;

stirring and heating the resulting mixture to form associated particles; and

separating a liquid by at least one of heating and pressure reduction.

13. A developing unit for use in an image forming apparatus which develops an electrostatic latent image formed on a photoreceptor, transfers the image onto a recording medium, and then fixes the transferred image, said developing unit comprising:

a developing roller which supplies a toner onto the photoreceptor to develop the electrostatic latent image, and

a bias voltage applying member which applies a bias voltage to said developing roller to recover a toner remaining on the photoreceptor after the transfer step,

wherein said toner comprises associated particles formed from a composition comprising:

primary particles obtained from an emulsion of a

binder resin;

a colorant; and

a charge control agent comprising a wat r-soluble charge control substance incorporated in inorganic fine particles.